

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
14 March 2008
English
Original: Spanish

Identical letters dated 13 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Following instructions from my Government, and in view of the reckless smear campaign mounted against my country in an effort to link it to the irregular Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) group on the basis of evident falsehoods and sources lacking in moral authority, Ecuador reiterates the consistent position of the Ecuadorian State and President Rafael Correa on the internal conflict in Colombia:

- The Armed Forces and the National Police of Ecuador at the northern border are under orders from the President of the Ecuadorian State to repel any incursion into Ecuadorian territory.
- The members of irregular armed groups in Colombia such as FARC, paramilitaries and criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking cannot operate in Ecuador, as they violate express provisions of the domestic legal system. Despite not having diplomatic relations with Colombia, Ecuador recognizes the Colombian Government as the sole legitimate representative of the Colombian State.
- Any individual or group of individuals found to be in the national territory illegally shall be detained and placed at the disposal of the Ecuadorian legal authorities or driven out by force if they offer resistance.
- The Armed Forces and the National Police shall detain any members of irregular groups, paramilitaries or criminal organizations that enter the territory of Ecuador and shall hand them over to the legal authorities in accordance with the procedures prescribed by law. If they resist arrest, the Ecuadorian security forces shall apprehend them using a degree of force proportionate to the aggression.
- In the past, members of the Colombian military and police forces who entered Ecuadorian territory inadvertently and without permission returned to their country in the context of the agreements between Ecuador and Colombia. They would be obliged to lay down their weapons and surrender to the Ecuadorian authorities when intercepted within the national territory.

The Government of Ecuador recalls that it is a victim of the Colombian conflict and not a facilitator.



In view of the incapacity of Colombia to prevent some members of the irregular FARC group from crossing the border and establishing themselves clandestinely in Ecuador, our country has deployed 11,000 members of the Armed Forces and police to our shared border, at a high economic cost to the Ecuadorian State, necessitating the diversion of considerable resources from other urgent social needs.

The Colombian State has the obligation under international law to prevent the effects of its internal conflict from spilling over its borders and affecting the societies and territories of neighbouring countries, an international obligation which it is ignoring with regard to the Republic of Ecuador.

Colombia's internal conflict, which involves the actions of irregular groups, paramilitaries and criminal organizations linked to drug trafficking which originate and operate in Colombian territory, must be resolved exclusively within the Republic of Colombia. Ecuador will take no part in this conflict, in application of the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, which is enshrined in international law.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) María Fernanda Espinosa
Ambassador
Permanent Representative